



TUFOIC

TASMANIAN U.F.O. INVESTIGATION CENTRE

PO Box 99
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NEWSLETTER

No. 40

Better late than Never.

For the first time in many years the Centre's Newsletter is late, this is due to a number of reasons but as long as we get to print within reasonable time it will be better than no information at all.

Paul Jackson has been carrying most of the work load and with private commitments can only do so much. Keith Roberts has relinquished the position of Secretary/Investigations although he is still doing most of the work in the Investigations area so that things keep flowing.

If you feel you can assist in the day to day operation of the Centre now is the time to take the chance, with reports at a low still, no one should be rushed off their feet. Contact Keith at home 236009, or at work 346722, or if need be write to PO Box 99, Nth Hobart.

Although the recent drought in Tasmania has been broken by heavy rains in September and October the same cannot yet be said about UFO reports. We had a number of calls in August which produced some UFO cases (details in this newsletter) but as at the end of October all is quiet again. It is interesting to note that between Sept 1982 to Sept 1983 the Centre's sighting telephone number was in the Telephone Directory. The availability of the number made no difference in incoming calls until about August when a flow of calls occurred. Since the latest directory has been issued calls have once again dropped to near zero. It will be interesting to see what the next twelve months bring, apart from the August burst the availability of the telephone number apart from one hoax call made little if any difference.

TUFOIC PUBLICATIONS:

TASMANIAN UFO CATALOGUE-COMPUTER FILE \$3.00 (1983 edition)

TASMANIAN LANDINGS CATALOGUE \$2.00

MAATSUYKER ISLAND DOCUMENT \$2.00

UFO TASMANIA MAGAZINES, 5 Issues for \$4.00 (1978 - 1982)
Single issues (State which Year required) \$1.00

1983 Magazine still available \$1.00

ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE.

SIGHTINGS 1983.

A record dry for unexplained reports to the Centre has just occurred. Explanations seemed forthcoming for all cases reported from July 1982 until August 1983. A number of strange events seemed to have occurred near Lonnovale about Christmas/New Year but although not explainable by the Centre the reports seemed to be of Paranormal events although similarities to some UFO cases could not be ignored.

August just passed suddenly brought a spate of calls to the Centre, almost as if everyone had noticed the night sky once again with its normal phenomena such as meteorites, astronomical objects, aircraft etc: However, obtaining full details of all the cases seemed as hard as waiting for a good report to come to hand in the past twelve months so that all information is not yet complied.

TA 83040. Broadmarsh Road.

The witness with his son was travelling north on the Broadmarsh Road about 8pm on August 6th. The road runs north from Brighton to Elderslie some 30k north of Hobart.

They noticed an unusually bright light to the north east at tree top level above a hill in that direction. It appeared to be a yellow pulsating oval shape, about $\frac{1}{2}$ moon sized. It had the appearance of partitioning lines in the centre.

It looked to travel slowly at first in a southerly direction, but remained at all times above the hill line. The object finally travelled in an arc of nearly 360 degrees so that it was travelling back in a northerly direction. The object was in sight for some 10 minutes as the witnesses drove north, then as they stopped their car for a short while. The witnesses travelled on and lost sight of the object in the north at an estimated 45 degree elevation. They felt that it was some distance away from their location, possibly some 15k. The moon and Venus were also noticed at the time of the sighting which occurred in a rural area.

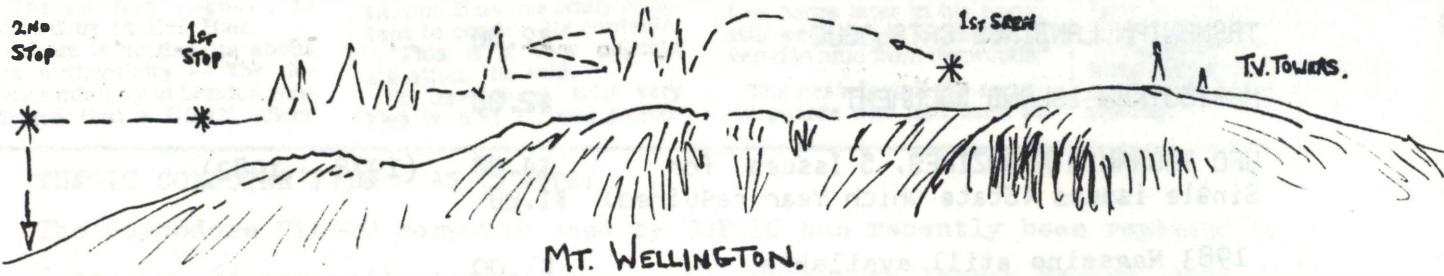
TA 83044. Howrah.

The sighting on August 18th however was by contrast from the Hobart suburb of Howrah. The witness was up early (6.45am) to draw back the curtains of her riverside flat. The view is a superb one of the city with Mt Wellington towering in the background. The first signs of light were in the sky and the mountain was clearly outlined.

The witness was a bit surprised to see a very bright white flashing star like light just south of the mountain summit. It was moving southwards but soon commenced an erratic manner of travel. Over the southern end of the mountain it went up and down, then travelled at one stage back to the north before turning to resume its southern movement.

This all took several minutes. Then the light stopped for 2 or 3 minutes before travelling on again further out over the south end of the mountain. Again it halted briefly but this time it went straight down to apparently disappear behind the mountainside.

The Venus sized + light flashed about once every 2 seconds, but nothing more than a light was seen at any time. The weather was mainly fine at the time after an overnight temperature of about 4deg with a light southerly wind and some strato cumulus cloud.



More Reports.

TA 83043. Jericho.

This report came to the Centre's attention via the Examiner newspaper in Launceston. The witness being from Launceston contacted them following the sighting. At present investigations are yet to be finalised.

The case was reported in the Hobart Mercury on August 11th but no other witnesses to the event contacted the Centre.

About 8.45pm on August 9th the passengers in a vehicle travelling south on the Midland Highway spotted something strange near Jericho. A bright light was noticed in the sky to their right front.

The next thing there was an object alongside the road claimed the driver of the car. It was estimated to be 3m above the ground and some 10m from the car.

The object was described as a circle of bright silver with a blue area in the middle top of the light mass. Also on the top perimeter were triangular white lights. The light was so bright that surrounding paddocks, trees, fences etc: were lit up, there was no need for headlights said the witness.

The light mass stayed alongside the car for about 3 to 4 minutes. Then it was gone in the blink of an eye, it just looked like a streak of white light going up into the sky at a 15 degree angle. There seemed to be a rushing air type noise during the sighting.

Copping Sighting.

What left the mark on the hillside at Copping, was it caused by the strange flashing light seen in the area? A check by the Centre seems to indicate that the mark may be nothing more than Fairy Fungus. The light that was seen though still seems to be inexplicable. Two independant witnesses saw the light but only one of the witnesses wanted to give us all the details.

Sometime during the first half of August, one evening just after dark the witness Mr C was going out his back door when he saw a light flashing on a hill 500m to his south east. His first thought was the light was from possum shooters. The flashing light seemed to be waving about in different directions. The flashing light seemed to be on the left lower part of a paler yellow mass of light.

The light remained in the same location for a couple of minutes so he had time to call out his wife. The light mass then moved across the sky towards the south west. He could now see it clearly as an oval/round shape some 5-6m long. He estimates the light was only doing 20kph and was eventually obscured by trees on a hill to his south.

Another witness in the area the light disappeared reported seeing a bright light that lit up the area but no further details could be gained by the Centre.

Some weeks later the witness (Mr C.) and a friend went up the hill and found a clear ring in the paddock the light was seen in. Although it had rained a lot the earth in the ring was dry and seemed to have a white substance in it. Sample taken by the Centre in October suggest that Fairy Fungus was responsible for the 8.75 m diameter circle.

IN THE early hours of a December morning three years ago something strange happened in a small pine wood near Woodbridge in Suffolk.

It was strange enough to warrant the attention of the U.S. and Royal air forces, both of which have bases near the wood.

But was it the arrival of a flying saucer manned by three silver-suited aliens?

According to a former U.S. Air Force security patrolman, a former British defence ministry under-secretary and a report prepared by a U.S. lieutenant-colonel, that is exactly what happened.

But the official line is that the only strange thing happening in Tangham Wood at 5 a.m. on December 27, 1980 was in someone's over-worked imagination.

Certainly UFO buffs in Britain and the U.S. have compiled an impressive file of eye-witness reports and official documents to back up their startling claim that a UFO landed in Suffolk.

They even claim that U.S. Air Force officials were expecting it and had a 200-strong welcoming committee waiting in a scene straight out of the Hollywood hit, "Close Encounters Of The Third Kind."

The whole incident was the subject of an elaborate cover-up by frightened officials, the UFO investigators claim.

The evidence was enough for Britain's News Of The World newspaper to declare categorically across its front page in massive black type: "UFO lands in Suffolk ... And that's official."

That led to other people recalling strange events near Woodbridge three years ago.

The evidence put together by the UFO investigators centres on two vital accounts of what happened in Tangham Wood.

The first is a report by Lt.-Col. Charles Halt, deputy commander of the USAF 81st tactical fighter wing stationed at Woodbridge beside the RAF base there.

The report, on official USAF notepaper and headed "Unidentified Lights", is signed by Lt.-Col. Halt.

There is no dispute about its authenticity — the defence ministry in London confirmed that a USAF officer

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From GARY HUGHES in London

The Sun, Saturday, October 15, 1983

ENCOUNTER OF THE CLOSED KIND

"off duty and off the base" made a sighting and submitted a report via the RAF.

The report says that in the early morning of December 17, 1980, two USAF security guards saw unusual lights outside the back gate of RAF Woodbridge and went to investigate, thinking a plane had been forced down or crashed.

What they found was an object "described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three metres across the base and approximately two metres high," Lt.-Col. Halt's report said.

"It illuminated the entire forest with a white light.

The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs.

As the patrolmen approached the object manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared.

The report went on to say animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The mysterious light reappeared near the rear gate of RAF Woodbridge about an hour later.

The next day three depressions four centimetres deep and 17.5 cm in diameter were found. Radiation readings in the depressions and on a nearby tree were higher than normal.

The following night a "red sun-like light" was seen moving

through the wood and bright light were seen in the sky. One "beamed down a stream of light from time to time."

Lt.-Col. Halt said at the bottom of his report that he had personally witnessed the lights on the second night.

But when approached a few days ago about the report, Lt.-Col. Halt was oddly reluctant to confirm its contents.

"This is a very delicate situation," he said.

"I have been told very clearly that I could jeopardise my career if I talk about it."

The head of RAF Woodbridge, Squadron Leader Donald Morland, did however confirm the report and recalled the events.

"The colonel sat in my office and was a very worried man," he said.

"I know Lt.-Col. Halt very well and respect him and I fully believe he was telling the truth."

"Whatever it was, it was able to perform feats in the air which no known aircraft is capable of doing. I put the events the colonel related to me down to inexplicable phenomena."

The second piece of evidence the UFO investigators believe proves their claims is an account by the USAF patrolman who went into the woods to investigate.

Refusing to give his name for security reasons, the patrolman, since honorably discharged and living in the U.S., said that as he walked into the wood carrying a light, animals were "running in panic."

When he reached a clearing he found 200 USAF and RAF officers and security men. Movie cameras had been set up and helicopters were hovering nearby.

A red light appeared in the sky and touched down in the clearing, he claims.

The red light "exploded" into a shower of lights which momentarily blinded everyone.

They then found themselves looking at a "machine" giving off a metallic bluish light.

"It appeared to have a triangular shape and was covered with pipes and valves and things," the patrolman remembered.

"It was about 20 feet across the bottom, with sloping sides up to the top. Certainly big enough to handle people."

"Then I realised the spaceship was inhabited. There were beings aboard."

"I didn't see them because I was on the wrong side of the craft. But others did."

"They said there were three, and they were wearing silver suits."

"I had a strange feeling and seemed to black out."

The 22-year-old security patrolman said he woke up two hours later in his bunk, still wearing his uniform covered in mud from the woods.

The next day all the security guards who had been in

the woods were checked for radiation and then told by three civilians, who he assumed were CIA gents, that what they had seen was top secret.

They were warned not to talk about it to anyone.

The story of the Tangham Wood "landing" was pieced together by UFO investigators Mrs Brenda Cutler and Mrs Dorothy Street in Britain and U.S. UFO buff Larry Fawcett, a Connecticut police lieutenant.

They claim that within days of the incident a rumor was circulated in Suffolk that a plane had crashed in the Wood.

The two women also said some local civilian radar stations had tapes recording the radar sightings of UFOs, but these were confiscated by U.S. military officials within days of the incident.

The News Of The World, however, said a tape existed from RAF Watten, 80 kilometres from where the incident occurred, which showed a UFO was tracked crossing the east coast and disappearing out into the channel.

The newspaper also quoted an unnamed retired defence department assistant under-secretary as saying that he believed "something very significant" happened in Tangham Wood.

It could be that both British and U.S. authorities were "trying to brush under the carpet something stupendous which has got them as baffled as the rest of us," he said.

Another theory on the mysterious events in Tangham Wood came from Lord Clancarty, 72, the somewhat eccentric head of a worldwide UFO believers group called "Contact".

He claimed that the UFO was manmade ... an experimental flying saucer developed secretly by the U.S. using "electro-magnetic energy" from outer space.

But the claims of the UFO investigators have been dismissed by the U.S. Air Force.

It says that Lt.-Col. Halt's report was not official and no investigation was carried out. "There wasn't an official investigation when it happened and we certainly have no interest in it now," a spokesman said.

An off-duty airman told security men he had seen a light in the forest and his observations were recorded. "It happened over Christmas when people were seeing colored lights all over the country."

TUFOIC COMPUTER FILE - AN UPDATE:

The Commodore Vic-20 computer used by TUFOIC has recently been replaced by a Commodore 64 personal computer. The "64" has a much larger memory store (38K), and increased screen size (40 characters) over the old Vic-20.

We hope soon to add a disco drive to this early in the new year, this will speed up our filing and retrieval time by a factor of ten. Further details of the file can be found in our last Newsletter (No. 39).